

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 468

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach John Calipari and the University of Memphis Tigers basketball team, the 2007 Champions of Conference USA.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable group of student athletes is the University of Memphis men's basketball team, the "Tigers," which achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2006-2007 season by winning its second straight Conference USA championship title, completing a 16-0 perfect record during conference play; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach John Calipari, the Tigers then defeated Marshall (92-71), vanquished Tulane (71-49), and humbled Houston (71-59) in the championship game to earn the Conference USA Tournament title at the FedEx Forum in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, returning to the NCAA Tournament, the Memphis Tigers proved themselves once again to be one of the premier college basketball programs in the nation by stopping North Texas (73-58) in the first round and beating Nevada (78-62) to advance to the Sweet Sixteen; and

WHEREAS, facing powerful Texas A&M in San Antonio, Texas, the Memphis Tigers stood their ground and upset the higher-ranked Aggies (65-64) to advance to the Elite Eight to face top-seeded Ohio State; and

WHEREAS, although one win short of reaching their goal of reaching the Final Four to ultimately play for a National Championship, the 2006-07 Memphis Tigers compiled one of the best records in team history - an amazing record of 33 wins against only 4 losses – adding yet another tremendous season to the University of Memphis men's basketball dynasty; and

WHEREAS, the members of this extraordinary team are: Andre Allen, Antonio Anderson, Hashim Bailey, Kareem Cooper, Joey Dorsey, Chris Douglas-Roberts, Robert Dozier, Jeremy Hunt, Willie Kemp, Doneal Mack, Chance McGrady, Pierre Niles, Jared Sandridge, Clyde Wade, and Tre'Von Willis; and

WHEREAS, competitors in the classroom as well as on the hardwood, Tiger senior Jeremy Hunt earned his college degree in 2006, senior Clyde Wade will graduate this May, and senior Jared Sandridge will receive his degree in August, bringing the total to 13 out of 16 recent seniors who have received their degrees from the University of Memphis with three players going professional; and

WHEREAS, utilizing the tremendous advantage of the outstanding basketball knowledge and experience of Head Coach John Calipari, the Tigers also enjoyed the guidance and expertise of Assistant Coaches Derek Kellogg, Chuck Martin, and John Robic; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Tigers were also aided in their efforts by Coordinator of Basketball Operations Andy Allison, Administrative Assistant/Video Coordinator Shyrone Chatman, Director of Performance Enhancement Richard Hogans, Athletic Trainer Chris Simmons, and Director of Student-Athlete Development/Manager Rod Strickland; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary members of the University of Memphis men's basketball team epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young men not only made possible a championship season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the University of Memphis Tigers for yet another exciting and exceptional 2006-2007 basketball season and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the athletes of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the players, coaches, and staff of the University of Memphis men's basketball team upon a tremendous 2007 basketball season, winning the Conference USA Championship and advancing to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament, as we extend to them our best wishes for every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.